

INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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FROM: Embassy ROME

TO: Secretary of State

NO: G-594

Ryt: Berlin, London, Moscow, Paris, USAFE Wiesbaden, USARMC Heidelberg

Paris pass UNMO, USCINCEUR, Thurston, West

Reference: Rome Despatch 1648, April 30, 1959

Subject: High Altitude Flights in Berlin Corridor

At Quadripartite Meeting yesterday, Dr. Northe presented following document which Federal Government obtained from "generally reliable" intelligence sources on subject high altitude US flights in Berlin corridor:

"On question of air corridor incidents Panow received following explanation from Moscow:

"(1) Until March 1959 allied planes had exceeded altitudes 3-4,000 meters because of weather conditions, but Soviet Union had never taken official cognizance these incidents.

"(2) Soviet Union has good reasons believe recent high altitude flights intended by US test Soviet reactions and, as matter of fact, force Soviet reaction.

"(3) Sharp reaction to first flight due to fact that Soviet occupation organs had no specific instructions for such contingency.

"(4) In view of forthcoming conferences, Soviet air control organs have now been instructed note such flights, at most control them by accompanying planes, but under all circumstances, avoid attack or direct conflict.

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JUN 12 1959

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(5) GDF publicity organs should limit comments such incidents to minimum and avoid drawing conclusions."

TIMESLACK

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